

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE POTENTIAL CASE--
AMERICAN FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION (AFIA)

REF: (A) TOKYO A-59 OF FEBRUARY 28, 1978 (B) TOKYO A-483
JULY 25, 1974

1. USDOC HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH AFIA CONCERNING
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JAPANESE BARRIERS TO LEATHER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS, THE WORK
OF THE MTN, AND THE ROLE OF THE TFC. AFIA HAS SUBMITTED
EXTENSIVE MATERIALS TO BOTH USMTN DELEGATION AND TO USDOC
FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY TEAM.

2. IN THE AREA OF TANNED LEATHER, WE TOOK THE POSITION
THAT THE JAPANESE TARIFF AND NONTARIFF BARRIERS WOULD NOT

BE DEALT WITH IN THE TFC BECAUSE THE STR-CHAired SECTION 301 COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATION ON THIS SUBJECT. IN THE AREA OF FOOTWEAR, WE EXPLAINED TO AFIA THAT THE TFC COULD HANDLE SPECIFIC COMPANY OR GENERIC COMPLAINTS CONCERNING JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO U.S. EXPORTS (E.G. ADMINISTRATION OF QUOTA, CUSTOMS PROCEDURES, ETC.) BUT NOT TARIFF OR QUOTA LEVELS AS SUCH SINCE THESE WERE BEING DEALT WITH IN THE MTN.

3. THE INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM AFIA INDICATES THAT U.S. EXPORTERS OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR TO JAPAN STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT QUOTA LEVELS IN JAPAN, THE ADMINISTRATION OF QUOTAS (E.G. PREMIUMS PAID FOR "OBTAINING QUOTA RIGHTS BY CONSIGNMENT" INDUSTRY QUOTA HOLDERS, ETC); AND CUSTOMS PROCEDURES. SPECIFICALLY AFIA STATED THAT THE QUOTA LEVEL FOR LEATHER FOOTWEAR IS NOT AVAILABLE AND THAT AN UPDATED LIST OF QUOTA HOLDERS WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL. REF (B) STATED THAT THE IMPORT QUOTA LEVEL FOR JFY 74 WAS 7.8 MILLION DOLLARS. REF (A) DOES NOT INDICATE QUOTA LEVELS FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS, INCLUDING JFY 78. REF (B) ALSO PROVIDED A LIST OF QUOTA HOLDERS WHICH WAS NOT UPDATED BY REF (A), PERHAPS BECAUSE IT WAS UNCHANGED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY PROVIDE SPECIFIC UNCLASSIFIED

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LEATHER FOOTWEAR QUOTA LEVELS FOR JFY 75-78; AS MUCH SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON QUOTA ALLOCATION AND CONSIGNMENT AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING MOST CURRENT LIST OF QUOTA HOLDERS; INFORMATION ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES; AND EMBASSY VIEWS ON WHETHER ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO IMPORT OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR, APART FROM TARIFF AND QUOTA LEVELS, MIGHT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR POTENTIAL TFC COMPLAINT. VANCE

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